

By: West

S.B. No. 1419

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

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AN ACT

relating to the creation of the Texas Hospital-Based Nursing Education Grant Program.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Title 3, Education Code, is amended by adding Chapter 155 to read as follows:

CHAPTER 155. TEXAS HOSPITAL-BASED NURSING EDUCATION GRANT PROGRAM

Sec. 155.001. DEFINITIONS. In this chapter:

(1) "Board" means the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

(2) "Hospital" means a hospital that is not owned or operated by the federal government or the state.

(3) "Hospital-Based Nursing Education Program" means the curriculum and examinations leading to a professional baccalaureate nursing degree.

(4) "Recognized accrediting agency" means the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools and any other association or organization so designated by the board.

Sec. 155.002. PROGRAM. A hospital-based nursing education program is established. The board shall administer the hospital-based nursing education program to make grants to hospitals to support the preparation of students for initial licensure as registered nurses in order to increase the number of registered nurses to meet the needs for registered nurses in the

1 state.

2 Sec. 155.003. GRANTS. (a) A grant from the hospital-based
3 nursing education training program:

4 (1) must be expended on costs related to the
5 development and operation of a:

6 (A) hospital-based nursing education program
7 that confers a baccalaureate degree in nursing; or

8 (B) hospital-based bridge program for associate
9 degree nurses to baccalaureate degree nurses; and

10 (2) is contingent on the hospital-based nursing
11 education program having been approved by the board, a recognized
12 accrediting agency, and the Board of Nurse Examiners.

13 (b) If granted to a hospital partnering with a professional
14 nursing program, the funding is contingent on the professional
15 nursing program enrolling additional students; and

16 (c) Funds not expended on the costs described by Subsection
17 (a)(1) shall be returned to the board.

18 Sec. 155.004. ADMINISTRATION. The board shall adopt rules
19 and regulations for the administration of the hospital-based
20 nursing education grant program.

21 Sec. 155.005. ANNUAL REPORT. (a) Each hospital that has a
22 hospital-based nursing education program shall submit an annual
23 report. The report must include accountability measures as
24 established by the board.

25 (b) The board may adopt rules to implement this section.

26 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
27 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as

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1 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
2 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
3 Act takes effect September 1, 2007.